

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 10ASHGABAT118, TURKMENISTAN: TRANSITING IRANIANS: HOW THEY VIEW

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#10ASHGABAT118**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
10ASHGABAT118	2010-01-26 06:55	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Ashgabat

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/04/17/112290/state-department-cables-reveal.html>

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PP RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHKUK RUEHLH RUEHNEH RUEHPW  
RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHSR RUEHTRO  
DE RUEHAH #0118/01 0260655  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 260655Z JAN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4124  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 6165  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 0011  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4409  
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ASHGABAT 000118

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/IR AND SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/25/2020

TAGS: [IR](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: TRANSITING IRANIANS: HOW THEY VIEW  
EVENTS AT HOME

REF: 09 ASHGABAT 1547

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Sylvia Reed Curran. Reasons: 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (C) The process of canvassing Iranians waiting at the Turkmen-Uzbek border is not exactly scientific. Nevertheless, chatting with truckers at various points throughout the border town of Farap is as close as one might get, outside of Iran, to a Masshad "street." Most come from Masshad or other towns in northern Iran, and conversations with them offer a candid glimpse of how working class Iranians view events at home. Iran Watcher spoke with several groups of Iranians passing through Farap xxxxxxxxxxxx. Those conversations brought out divergent, sometimes surprising, points of view.

"In a year, ahmadinejad will be out"

¶2. (C) At "Cafe Zaineb," part of a truck stop and guest house just off the main road that caters to Iranian and Turkish truckers (reftel), we spoke to a group xxxxxxxxxxxx. They were accompanied by xxxxxxxxxxxx, in his late fifties and something of a firebrand, declared, "Just wait a year. When the revolution takes place, Ahmadinejad will be out and Moussavi will be president." (He repeated himself, partly in broken Russian, just to be sure we understood). Underscoring his strong dislike for Iran's leaders, he said emphatically, "The mullahs and Ahmadinejad? They can all go to hell." When asked how other Iranians he knows view the situation, xxxxxxxxxxxx said, "I assure you: 70 percent of the people feel just like I do. We just can't say it openly. Everyone talks in whispers." xxxxxxxxxxxx, wanted to know, "Is it true that America doesn't want Iran to have nuclear energy? Why?" (Most of the group seemed surprised to hear that nuclear weapons, not energy, are the cause of concern.)

The secretary's human rights speech: tucked out of sight

¶3. (C) We passed out Farsi-language copies of Secretary Clinton's December speech "On the Human Rights Agenda for the 21st Century," as well as U.S.-Iran flag pins (a big hit). Several of the truckers said, "We need to read this here. We'll be in big trouble if they catch us with it in Iran." xxxxxxxxxxxx however, asked for extra copies. "I'm not worried," he said. "I'll hide them in my truck. I want my children to read this."

"Obama has not kept his promises"

¶4. (C) In the evening, we met up with another group of xxxxxxxxxxxx truckers. xxxxxxxxxxxx said he was delighted to be meeting an American, "for the first time in my life." (He pulled out a digital camera to record the event.) With a wife and three children xxxxxxxxxxxx, he spends more time on the road than at home. Possessing a knack for languages, he has picked up both Russian and Uzbek, and has also mastered the Tajik dialect of Farsi during trips to Dushanbe. While traveling through Central Asia, he enjoys drinking and visiting discotheques.

9/11 conspiracy theories

¶5. (C) When asked how Iranians view current events at home, xxxxxxxxxxxx opined that, "Some people might not like individual leaders or clerics, but overall, they want an Islamic form of government. That's why people are basically happy with the regime." On the question of how Iranians view the U.S., he said, "Obama promised a lot when he was running for president. He said he would end the U.S. occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan and close Guantanamo, but he's done none of it." xxxxxxxxxxxx said that in his view, neither military action was justified, including the war in Afghanistan. "Don't Americans understand about 9/11? The whole thing was devised

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by Bush." His companion xxxxxxxxxxxx echoed, "Yes, it was all a pretext for America's so-called war on terror." Both men went on to qualify their statements with, "We're no fans of the Taliban. Did you know that they tell their suicide bombers that they'll go to paradise if they kill five Shiites?" (This was followed by questions about Christian sects, and whether Catholics and Orthodox Christians have as many problems between them as Sunni and Shiite Muslims.)

¶6. (C) COMMENT: An estimated 70,000 Iranians, mostly truckers, pass through Turkmenistan every year. Conversations with them are informative not just for us. Those we meet also appear anxious to learn about the U.S. Our discussions are on a wide range of topics, not just political issues. One Kurdish driver at a truck stop on the road to Mary, when he learned Iran Watcher was American, asked for news of Homeyra, an Iranian singer residing in Los Angeles. "I've heard she's ill," he said worriedly. "Do you know if that's true?" END COMMENT.  
Curran